

MAY 1988

Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat

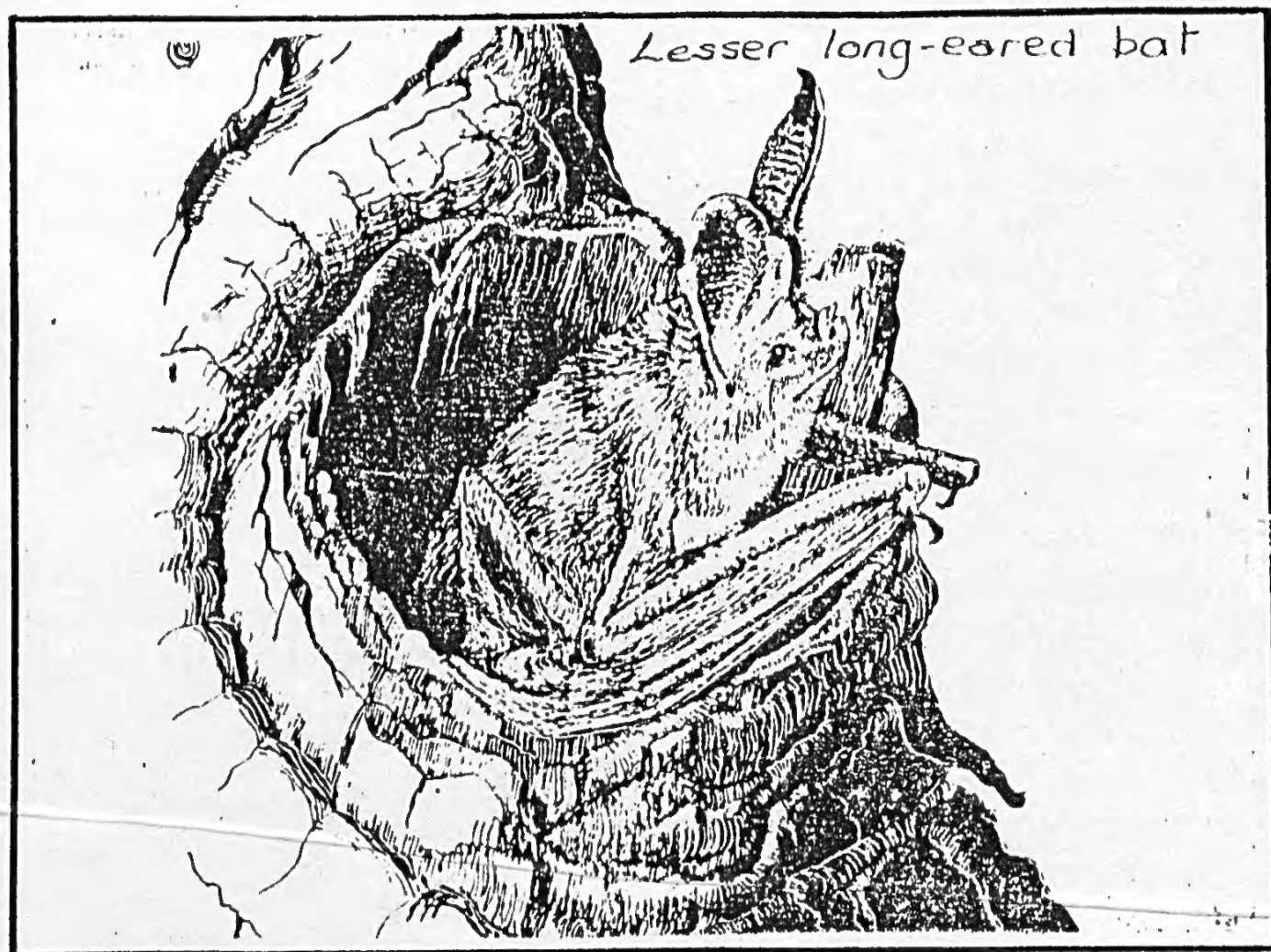
EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

Meeting May 6th Mr. & Mrs. N. White. - 'Bats caves and C.C.V.'

Meeting June 3rd Miss H. Burgess - 'Antarctica'

Excursion May 7th Mt. Widderin and Eel Factory Mr. N. White

Excursion June 5th District waterfalls - Mr. G. Binns



President; Dr. F. Harrap Ph. 053 301651
Vice Pres. Miss H. Burgess 312210
Secretary: Mr. G. Binns 332282
Treasurer: Mrs. F. Williamson 327631
Editor: Mr. A. Barlow 413378

Meetings as specified are held at the School of Mines and Industries, Lydlard Street Sth., Art Building, commencing at 7.30 p.m. EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM CROCKERS, cnr. STURT AND ARMSTRONG STS., BALLARAT, at 9.30 a.m. for FULL DAY OUTINGS OR AT 1.30 p.m. for HALF DAY*

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Items treated were: 1. Correspondence.

2. Report by Sec. on discussions with R.Whitehead(B.C.C.) and G.Cerini (C.F.L.) on continuing plans for facilities for birdlife on Lake Wendouree.

3. Review of Mines Act. Report on successful meeting of W.V.F.N.C.A. at Maryborough 21/4/88. Summary of recommendations yet to be received from Sec.

4. Re devastation of Ironbark forest, (Deephead Flora and Fauna Reserve) by mining exploration activity - agreed to write to Minister for Planning and Environment urging a review of the status of the Reserve.

5. Re Habit Sheets of flora, Anglesea district presented by Mary White. President to write letter of thanks to Miss White.

6. Agreed to supply of Excursion - News Sheet to Regional Library, Camp St.

7. Re Furze Strategy Plan, C.F.L.; agreed to complete response advocating strong control but with consideration for significant native vegetation. Control of introduced Broom species is also to be recommended.

8. Urban Wild Life Watch; agreed to urge members to participate and to check that schools in Ballarat are aware of the scheme.

9. Planning of arrangements for Pax Hill WVFNCA camp in August. Agreed to seek full support of members in organisational and catering arrangements as applicable to host club.

Excursion, Sat. May 7th. Meet at 9.30.a.m. East side of Civic Hall car park. Wear old clothes and safe shoes, a helmet (cycle or similar) is advisable but not obligatory. Do not forget torch.



FIELD REPORTS April Meeting.

B.Dowling	At Learmonth, Peaceful Dove; White Faced Heron caught 18 cm, but could not swallow it.
A.Barlow	Red Browed Finches (approx. 18). at Mt Helen.
H.Burgess	Koala in garden, Nth Ballarat; Ring Tailed Possum killed on a power line.
H.Harrap	Eastern Shrike Tits (4) at Mt Helen. At Fells Gully, Hooded Robin and Southern White Face. Noted A. Paradoxa very strong growth after fires.
A.Morrison	Brolgas (15) near Lake Goldsmith. Noted 3 koalas killed between Geelong and Ballarat.
F.Williamson	Mallards (3) at Lake Wendouree.

For your Diary.

May 25th Committee meeting 8pm 12 Pleasant St. Sth. Ballarat Wednesday.

August 26 - 28 W.V.F.N.C.A. Campout; Pax Hill Scout Reserve, Ballarat East.

October 21-23 W.V.F.N.C.A. North Eastern Campout. Details of programmes are available

Book Review.

Over the years many fine Books on Victorian, and Australian, Orchids have been printed, The volume Victorian Orchids in Habitat, by Mrs Margaret Dacy is one of the finest.

Mrs Dacy has been photographing and studying Victorian Orchids for more than twenty years. The efforts of these twenty years is now available to all who are interested in Orchids or our native flora, it comes with the highest recommendation.

L.F.

Members Night 1988

Many and varied were the slides and travels of our Field Nats. as shown by the following lists.

Lyndsay Fink, showed slides of Northern Territory and Western Australian wild flowers, from Ayers Rock through the Great Victorian Desert and down the coast to the Sterling Ranges.

Frank Harrap, showed Portland and many sea scapes including Frank in "Sou' Wester" also the Big Desert Desert, Mt Beckworth, Clunes area, Wambat State Forest and a beautiful sunset.

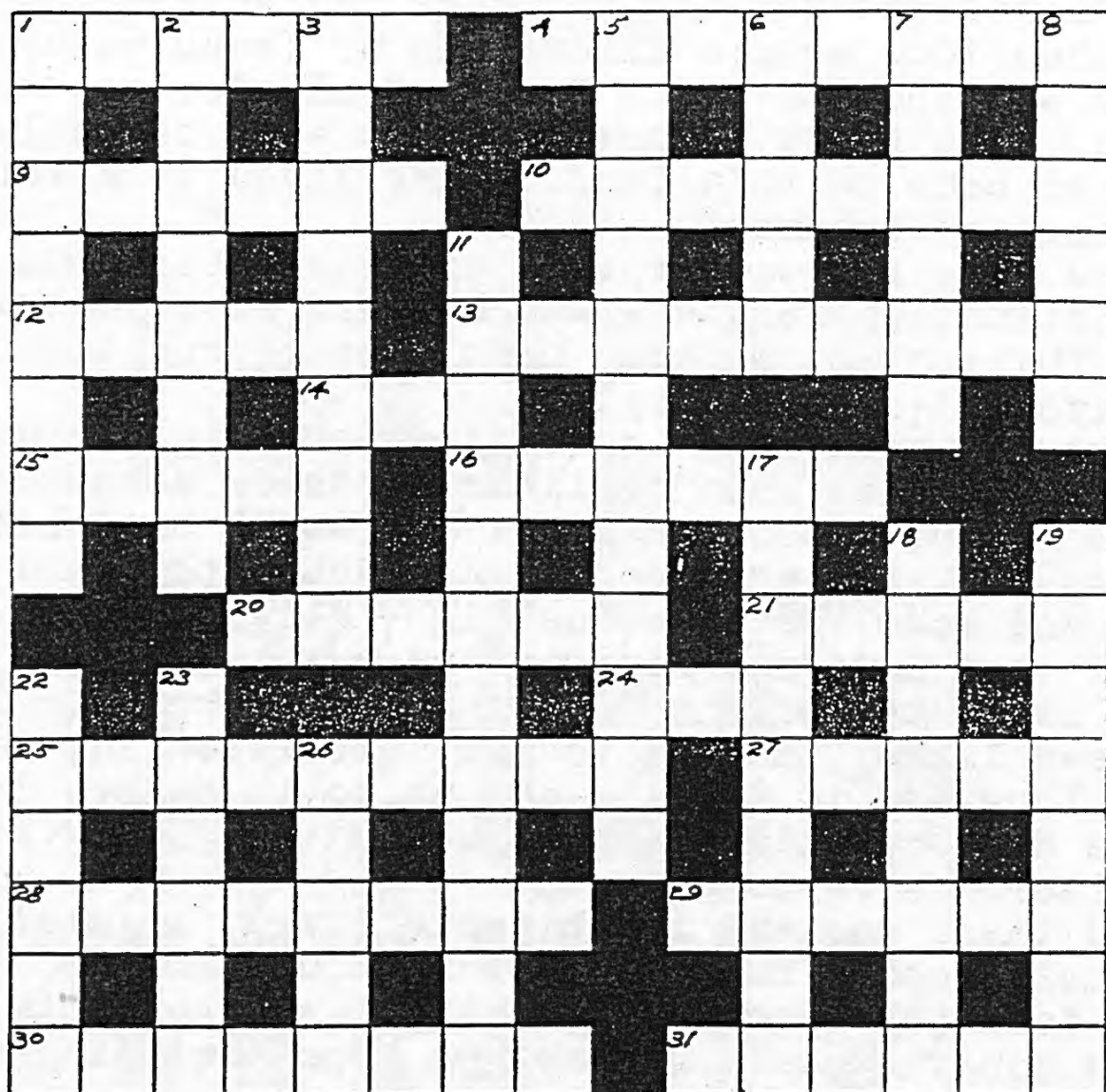
Gregg Binns, took us to Maria Island, Tasmania, showing the Limestone Cliffs where the Convicts mined the material for the buildings.

The Quartermaster's Store and other buildings including the Millers Cottage, the remains of the Brick Kilns. On the Beach he showed Fairy Tern's Eggs, Pied Oyster Catcher's Eggs, Brush Bronzewing and Cape Barren Geese.

Clare Dalman went to the centre and showed her slides of Ghost Gums, Simpsons Gap, John Hayes' Waterhole, the Twin Gums at Albert Namatjara's Grave, Mt Olga Gorge, Desert Oaks (*Allocasuarina decaisneana*), Sturts Desert Rose, the Ayers Rock walk and how the top varies, also the wonderful views.

Ken Hammond, showed a variety of places he had been and what he found there, from the Victorian Alps, the Grampians, Gang Gang Cockatoos, Stilts Whistlers, Iris, Drosera, Bird Orchids, Moonlight Heads sea scapes, the High Plains, Lyrebird, Mt. Beauty Waterfall, Fogbound area, Autumn Leaves, a Skink, Toadstools, Gardens, Lake Goldsmith, Eastern Rosella, Badgers Creek, Wyperfield Nat. Park and the pink lakes. (A most interesting trip around Victoria, Ed).

Helen Burgess, took us to the far North of Australia with Plants, Trees, and Anthills. This evening was a very enjoyable one. Keep up the good work. Pity there isn't still a Photoflora?



NATURAL HISTORY CROSSWORD NO. 5 by TANTULUS.

ACROSS

1 Is dormant (6) 4 Horse or tree? (8) 9 Of the stars (6) 10 Salad fruit or sea animal (8)
 12 Plants generally (5) 13 Pert. to one of the two divisions of molluscs (headless) (9)
 15 Defence of some hymenoptera (5) 16 ----- fish; aptly named gudgeon with red, white
 and blue banded dorsal fins (6) 20 Percoid fish (Genus Oligorus) 21 Could be Pink eared
 or Blue billed ones (5) 25 Armoured S.American animal (9) 27 Butterfly larva (5)
 28 Mus Decumanus (5,3) 29 Ray-like fish (6) 30 Member of Order Chelonia (8) 31 What to
 do, mathematically speaking, to Kit to get young feline! (3,3)

DOWN

1 Crown of Thorns is one (8) 2 Relating to unavailable heat content of matter (8)
 3 Possum (9) 5 Passer Domesticus (5,7) 6 Melting snow (5) 7 Ready for marriage (6)
 8 Obtain birds from trains (anagram) (6) 11 Larva of Lepidoptera (12) 17 Avocet
 Stint or wallaby? (3-6) 18 Sericornus magnus (8) 19 ----- bugs, Fam. Reduviidae (8)
 22 Destructive, introduced rodent (6) 23 What the churchmouse might say! (2 4) 26
 Australian wild dog (5)

LAKE MUNGO.

In the far west of Southern New South Wales lies the Willandra Lake system. They are a series of interconnected lake basins that carried water from a tributary of the Lachlan River toward the Murray, these lakes are dry now but once had an area of more than 1000 square kilometres of fresh water.

Here was the home of a Tribe of slender graceful people. The first to come to this area, probably the first to come to this land. They lived in a very favorable environment.

There were few carnivorous predators Dasyurus, Sarcophilus, Thylacine and a Leopard sized carnivore named Thylacoleo, who may have been a predator or may have eaten only carrion.

There may have been crocodiles and Snakes but these would have been familiar to these newcomers.

Some of the other other animals would have been a Wombats the size of a cow, Kangaroos with round faces and some three metres high, Flightless Birds bigger than Emus and Diprotodons.

The lakes teemed with fish and water birds. One of these lakes, the one we are interested in, was 20 Km long and 10 Km wide and up to 15 metres deep, on its Eastern side there were sand dunes providing a sheltered area to camp in.

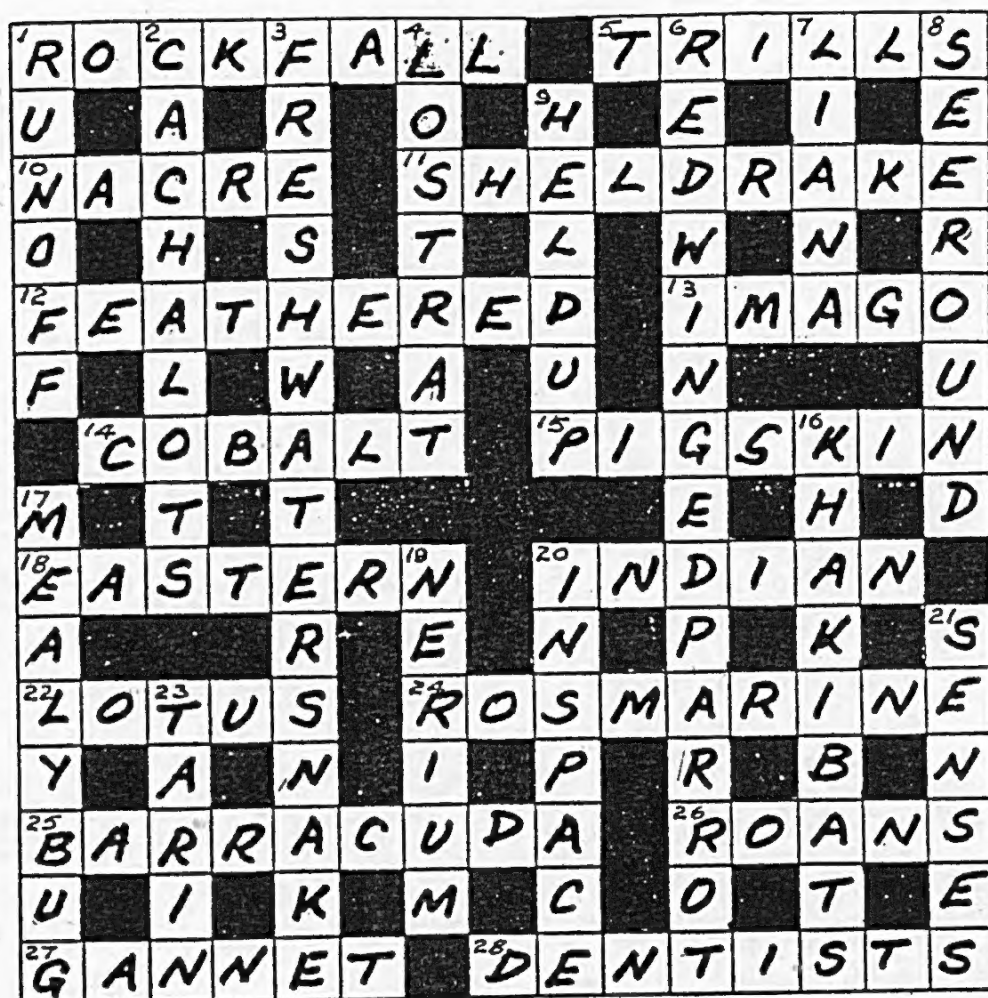
Here these ancient inhabitants lived, roasted and ate their food. They used stone tools and cremated their dead (the earliest known evidence of this), on the sandy dunes a few metres from the shingle of the fresh water lake.

Here Mungo Man (1) was found some 36,000 years later, Mungo 1 was a young adult female, of slender build and small stature, her head was round in shape and her eyebrow ridges small compared with the beattling brows of other archaic and even modern Aborigines, her bones and those of Mungo 11 and 111 were much more gracile than the later inhabitants, the males were nearly six feet tall.

These people used few stone tools and ochre (brought from another area), they had bone points on their spears and bone for catching fish. They cooked their their food in ovens and on hearths,

cont.

they ate small animals, shellfish, birds and fish from the lake. The area around the lakes was rich and lush with trees, plants and grasses, until about 16,000 years ago when this area began to dry up, today it is a dry and almost arid area.



Solution to Crossword No. 4.

Next month it is planned to introduce a small segment on the last page called 'Terminal Trivia'. It will comprise snippets of information on topics relating to the natural world. e.g. All parrots throughout the world lay pure white eggs. Your contributions should be as short as possible and will be gratefully received by the editor. (NOT spelt, as I have been told 'idiotor'. They can be handwritten or phoned in to 413378.

Botany - FAMILY RUTACEAE

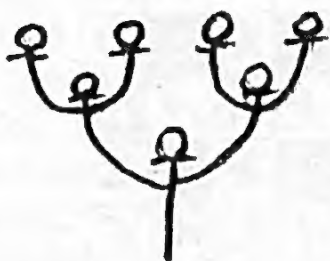
This family takes its name from Ruta to which a garden and medicinal plant, Rue, belongs. Most of the species are found in warmer climates than that of Ballarat.

In Australia there are about 41 genera and 320 species.

Around Ballarat the Boreonias, Correas, Eriostemons (native), Citrus (introduced) and Coleonema (Diosma) (introduced) are well known.

The majority of the family are shrubs or trees with alternate leaves, often containing oil sacs (produce a pleasant aroma when crushed).

The inflorescence may be terminal, axillary or lateral and consists of 1 to many flowered cymose clusters.



(cyme - an inflorescence in which the main axis ends in a flower - further growth produces branches which also end in a flower)

The flowers are regular and usually bisexual. There are 4 to 5 sepals, more or less coherent at the base or united in a cup. Petals 4 to 5, imbricate (overlapping) or valvate (sepals and petals in the bud meet without overlapping). The petals are generally free, but are fused in most species of Correa.

Stamens - the same number as the petals or twice as many (Citrus is an exception). Gynoecium is superior, 4 Or 5 (rarely 2) carpels - united above by the styles or fused completely. The carpels are 1 celled with 2 (rarely 1) ovules. Sometimes there is a disc at the base of the ovary which produces nectar.

Fruits vary - often capsules - sometimes a berry (Citrus).